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June 27, 1955

AEC 125/24

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ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

SETTLEMENT OF CLAIMS OF MARSHALL ISLANDERS

Note by the Secretary

The attached letter from the General Counsel for the Department of Defense to the Office of Territories, Department of Interior, is circulated for the information of the Commission.

W. B. McCool

Secretary

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GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

June 21, 1955

Dear Mr. Lausi:

I am enclosing a copy of a memorandum I have just received from the Acting Judge Advocate General of the Navy, informing me that the claims of Marshall Islanders arising from the test activities of Joint Task Force SEVEN have now been fully settled by the Navy Foreign Claims Commission, Kwajalein.

I wish to thank you very much for the cooperation of officials of the Office of Territories and of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands in this undertaking. That cooperation has played a considerable part in the prompt and satisfactory settlement of the claims, an accomplishment which gives me great satisfaction, as I am sure it does you.

Sincerely yours,

/s/

Wilber M. Brucker  
General Counsel

1 Inclosure  
A/S

Department of Energy  
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Mr. Anthony T. Lausi  
Office of Territories  
Department of the Interior

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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
Office of the Judge Advocate General  
Washington 25, D. C.

In reply refer to  
JAG:III:2:HMD:bjr  
Marshall Islanders

14 Jun 1955

MEMORANDUM FOR THE GENERAL COUNSEL  
Department of Defense

Subj: Claims of Marshall Islanders

- Ref: (a) Ass't. Gen. Counsel, Logistics, DOD, memo of 29 Dec 1954
- (b) JAG ltr, GAC:III:2:HMD:bjr Marshall Islanders, of 12 Jan 1955
- (c) Ass't. Gen. Counsel, Logistics, DOD, memo of 17 Feb 1955

1. References (a), (b) and (c) concern the claims of the Marshall Islanders resulting from the nuclear tests conducted in March, 1954. It was agreed that these claims would be settled by a Navy Foreign Claims Commission convened by the Commanding Officer, Naval Station, Kwajalein, Marshall Islands, in accordance with the provisions of the Foreign Claims Act (31 U. S. C. 224d).

2. The Commanding Officer, Naval Station, Kwajalein reports that all of the subject claims have been settled. Payments in the amount of \$1,719.27 were made to the inhabitants of Uterik Island and in the amount of \$5,162.53 to the inhabitants of Rongelap Island. The settlements were completed on 13 May 1955 by payments to three claimants who were previously absent from their homes. All other settlements were made in April.

3. The Navy Foreign Claims Commission indicated that valuable assistance was rendered by various officers of the Government of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. Letters of appreciation were forwarded by the Commission to Mr. P. D. Steel, Island Affairs Officer, from the Office of the District Administrator at Majuro, and Mr. Byron Brender, the Rongelap liaison officer.

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S. B. D. WOOD  
Acting Judge Advocate General  
of the Navy